



Mayor Graves' Column May 9, 2014

How They See Gallatin

I'm sure you've seen the headlines during the last few months:

- Beretta Chooses Gallatin
- American Mechanical Inc. Opens Manufacturing Facility in Gallatin
- National Health Care Breaks Ground
- Panera Bread Plan Approved
- In Gallatin, We've Got the Jobs

If you live here, you have your own ideas about what makes Gallatin a great place to live and work. If you don't live here, you may do your own research about Gallatin and why you'd consider it for your new home or new business.

Of course I have a bias about Gallatin as *the* place to be in Tennessee.

But let me show you what someone else sees when they look to locate in Gallatin:

The City's population grew 33% in the last Census – and we're projected to grow at least another 17% by 2020.

Our property tax rate is 99-cents – and hasn't gone up in more than seven years.

We own our utilities – gas, water, sewer and electric. Our electric rates are the lowest in the Tennessee Valley region.

We are 31 miles from the Nashville Airport. And, the Sumner County Regional Airport is expanding to accommodate freight traffic.

State Route 386 makes it easy to get to and from Nashville. Eventually, State Route 109 will be four or five lanes from I-40 to I-65.

Businesses also take note at how Gallatin invests in its infrastructure with new roads, upgraded utilities, and expansion of the Industrial Center.

Our top manufacturers/distributors provide nearly 3,000 jobs.

There are 200 doctors and 20 dentists practicing in Gallatin. Our hospital, Sumner Regional Medical Center, has received national recognition and recently was honored for demonstrating excellence in healthcare delivery.

We have more than 25 day care centers.

We have one library, four parks, four golf courses (public & private), 57 restaurants, five hotels/motels, numerous sports facilities and walking trails, and at least one meeting facility with a capacity of 1,300 (the Civic Center). Gallatin also sits along the Cumberland River and Old Hickory Lake.

The unemployment rate in Sumner County is 5.4%. The civilian labor force in Sumner County is 85,360. In the Labor Market Area (Sumner, Davidson, Macon, Robertson, Trousdale and Wilson Counties), the civilian labor force is 533,270.

And, there are the factors you can't define in numbers:

Our people are friendly. A woman from Florida who was in the area this week to visit her son said she'd never met nicer people than those in Tennessee.

Gallatin provides city amenities, but you still feel like you've escaped to the countryside. And, Gallatin is well-established with 200-plus years of rich history.

So, when you read the headlines about Gallatin and hear about new jobs and new businesses, you now know what our new neighbors see – Gallatin is *the* place to be in Tennessee.